

**To:** Hopkins, Tracy[Hopkins.Tracy@epa.gov]; Flaks, Art[Flaks.Art@epa.gov]; Garufi, Katherine[Garufi.Katherine@epa.gov]  
**From:** Jeng, Richard  
**Sent:** Thur 8/13/2015 5:53:37 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Associated Press Inquiry re: Superfund and the spill

QUESTION 5)it's my understanding that the EPA has said a water treatment plant estimated to cost \$12-\$17m (and \$1M a year to operate) would be able to clean the water in the Animas. 5b)Is that correct? And if so, is it the type of expense that Superfund would cover?

5A) I did not know EPA said this and cannot confirm its validity.

5B) I don't know if the statement from 5A is correct. That is the type of expense Superfund would cover. This would typically occur as a remedial action after a site is made final on the National Priorities List, an exhaustive enforcement screening and search for potentially responsible parties has been completed, a decision document has determined a system is the most viable remedy, and sufficient funds are available from appropriated dollars to cover the cost of such a system.

Kate/Tracy/Art any comments on my proposed responses?

As far as whether the Superfund program pays for long-term O&M costs at removal sites (non-NPL sites), that question may be better responded to by OEM.

All of these responses should be cleared by R8.

Richard Jeng

OSWER/OSRTI/CPCMB

703-603-8749 (Desk)

703-517-6111 (Windows Phone)

**From:** Dreyfus, Melissa G. **On Behalf Of** EOC Technical Specialist  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 1:21 PM  
**To:** Jeng, Richard; Jeng, Terry; Wells, Suzanne; Ammon, Doug; Hopkins, Tracy; Gartner, Lois; Flaks, Art; Garufi, Katherine  
**Subject:** Fw: Associated Press Inquiry re: Superfund and the spill  
**Importance:** High

All,

Can you please take a look at questions #3 (Terry and Tracy?) and # 5b (Richard, Art, Kate?) and see if you can formulate an answer, or let me know who might be a good contact. For #5, does the Superfund program pay for long-term O&M costs at removal sites (non-NPL sites)? For #3, it looks like the question is regarding NPL listing more broadly than just mining sites.

Thanks!

Melissa

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**From:** Thomas, Latosha on behalf of EOC Public Information  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 12:30 PM  
**To:** EOC Technical Specialist  
**Subject:** Associated Press Inquiry re: Superfund and the spill

Hi,

These are a subset of questions from Associated Press re: Superfund and the spill. Thanks!

1) had Gold King Mine been designated a Superfund site, what would have been the chances of the spill happening?

-2) -how many mines are currently on the National Priorities List? Can we get a list of those or is there a way to search on the Superfund website?

3)is there a gauge of how often resistance to a Superfund designation by local officials has prevented a site's listing?

4)was a preliminary assessment ever completed on the Gold King Mine or for a group of mines including Gold King?

5)it's my understanding that the EPA has said a water treatment plant estimated to cost \$12-\$17m (and \$1M a year to operate) would be able to clean the water in the Animas.

5b)Is that correct? And if so, is it the type of expense that Superfund would cover?